

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-9, 12-21, and 24-31 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,858,195 to Ramsey ("Ramsey") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,375,871 B1 to Bentsen et al ("Bentsen *et al*").

Claims 1, 4-9, 12-15, 17-21, and 24-31 are allowed.

Claim 16 has been cancelled.

The acknowledgement, in the Office Action, of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and that the certified copy of the priority document has been received, is noted with appreciation.

Claim 12 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. This change does not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Ramsey in view of Bentsen *et al*, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 16 has been cancelled. Thus, the rejection of claim 16 is moot.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Application No.: 09/988,492
Amendment dated July 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 2, 2004

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

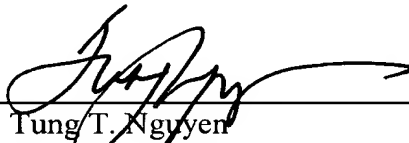
Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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